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Patient's Ease of Use, Comfort, and Satisfaction with the Female Urinal

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Problem and Purpose

Female orthopedic patients face many difficulties getting to the toilet or are unable to due to their physical weakness/impaired mobility. It is common for a female orthopedic patient to be in pain and unable to tolerate even the smallest change in position. This can result in dependency on other persons for continence care or in need of a device (e.g. bedpan, indwelling catheter). Indwelling urinary catheters (preoperatively and postoperatively) present a substantial risk for urinary tract infections (UTIs) with significant consequences such as bacteremia, prostatitis, cystitis, pyelonephritis, endocarditis, vertebral osteomyelitis, septic arthritis, endophthalmitis, meningitis, prolonged hospital stay, prosthetic joint infections and death (CDC, 2015).

Our main goal was to address the problems of discomfort, pain, and CAUTIs (catheter acquired urinary tract infections) associated with the use of bedpans and indwelling urethral catheters in orthopedic female patients in an acute care setting. These methods for urination assistance can be painful, uncomfortable, sensation of cold, loss of privacy and dignity, embarrassing experiences, low self-esteem, feelings of powerlessness)(Gattinger et al., 2013).

The purpose of this study was to determine orthopedic female patients' satisfaction, comfort, and level of effectiveness when using the female urinal.

Research Questions:

- To determine orthopedic female patients' ease of use of the female urinal.
- To determine orthopedic female patients' comfort and satisfaction with the use of the female urinal.
- To determine orthopedic female patients' recommendation for use of the female urinal.

Sample

A convenience sample of English and Spanish speaking female orthopedic inpatients who had been issued and used the female urinal were asked to participate.



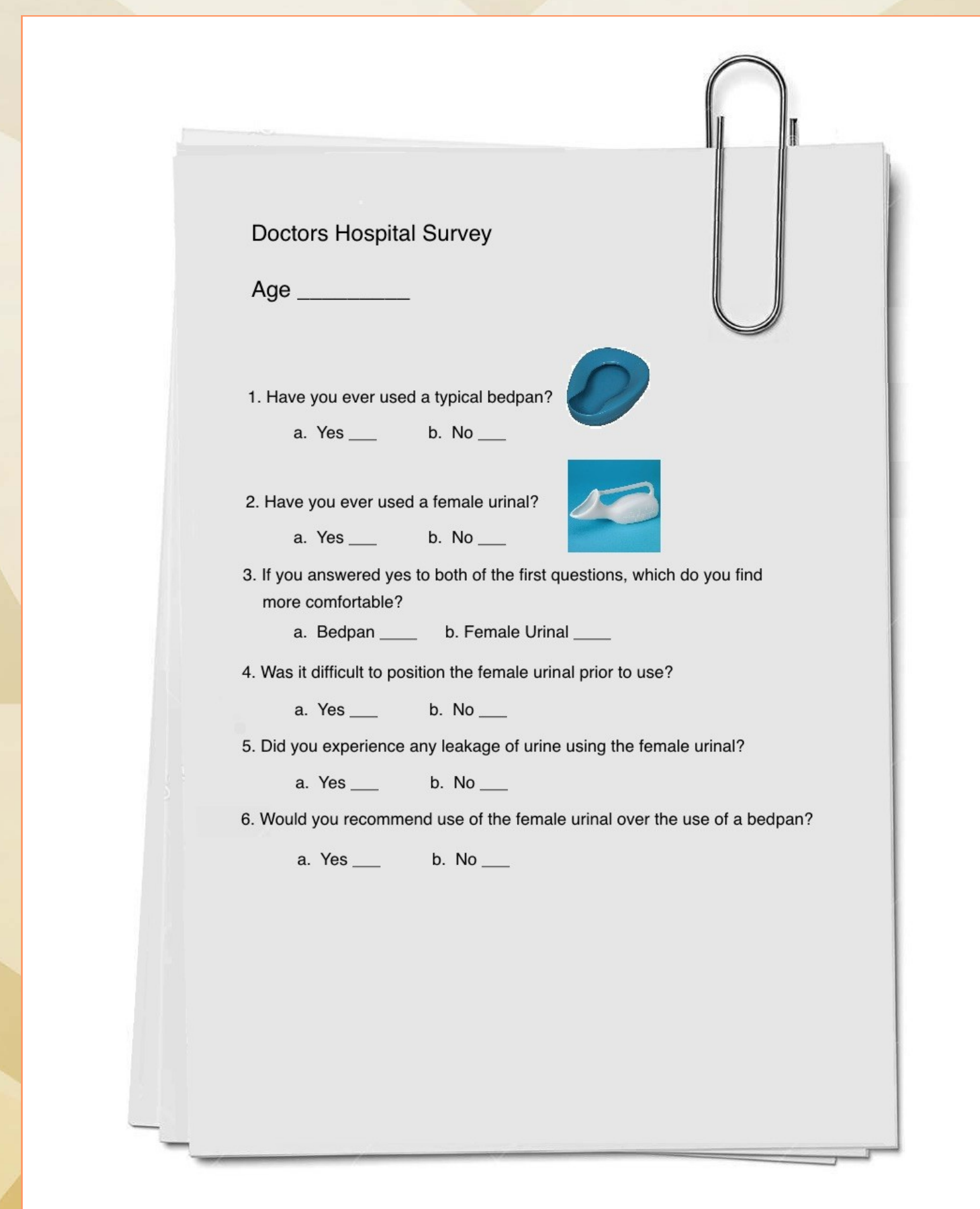
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Methods

- Female orthopedic patients issued the female urinals were marked on the daily census list of the patients.
- At the beginning of the shift the PI and/or Co-PI would consult with the staff on which female orthopedic patients have been issued and used the female urinal.
- Once a patient was identified as being issued and having used the female urinal, the study team member would approach the patient about the opportunity to be in the study using the IRB approved verbal script.
- The verbal script, cover letter, and survey were all available in both English and Spanish.
- A cover letter and survey were then given to the patient for their review and completion if interested. The patients were given the chance to ask any questions. If the patient agreed to be in the study then the study team would offer to read the questions to them and mark their answers if it was too difficult for the patient to write while lying down.
- Once the anonymous survey was completed, the patient was asked to place it in a lock box that the PI/Co-PI was carrying.



Results

- Overall response rate of 64%.
- Descriptive statistics show that, of the 32 female participants, the mean age was 67.45 years.
- The survey was completed by 17 (53.1%) English and 15 (46.9%) Spanish speaking patients.
- When the participant indicated they had used both a typical bedpan and a female urinal, 22 (81.5%) found the female urinal to be more comfortable.
- 29 (90.6%) of the respondents indicated that they would recommend the female urinal over using a bedpan.

Conclusions & Implications for Practice

Female urinals can provide an acceptable, safe, and economic alternative to difficult journeys to the toilet as an inpatient. They can benefit individuals with a range of mobility difficulties while decreasing the risk for falls and the need for indwelling urinary catheters.

Implications for Practice:

↑ Safety
↓ Dependency ↑ Self Steem
↑ Privacy & Dignity
↑ Fluid intake | Hydration
↓ Risk for falls
↓ Urinary catheters & Straight catheters for UA
↓ UTI / complications / Length of stay
↓ Physical Pain
↓ PRN pain medication & side effects | Codes
↓ Nursing time for urine collection on incontinent patients

Although there is little published information to guide its selection for orthopedic female patients, nurses do have an alternative for female patients who have previously had to use a bedpan for urinary continence care.

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), (2015). Urinary Tract Infection. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/pscManual/7pscCAUTIcurrent.pdf>

Gattinger, H., Werner, B., & Saxer, S. (2013). Patient experience with bedpans in acute care: A cross-sectional study. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 22(15-16), 2216-2224. doi:10.1111/jocn.12203